

The Sun

WILLIAM M. LAFAN.

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The Proposed Extinction of Alaska.

The naming of future States to be carved out of the Territory of Alaska is an interesting undertaking, if somewhat premature.

Governor BRADY has written from Sitka approving a suggestion made in the *Tribune* two or three months ago by the Rev. Dr. SPINING of South Orange, that the Territory be divided ultimately into two States, known respectively as Lincoln and Seward.

The name of LINCOLN, of course, is entitled to any further honor, geographical or other, that the United States Government can bestow; while the name of SEWARD, the prophet of continental expansion, and, after JEFFERSON, its greatest practical promoter, is particularly and peculiarly connected with the region in question.

Yet the application of this idea would result in a misfortune outweighing any sentimental advantage to the memories of LINCOLN and SEWARD. The name Alaska itself would disappear.

The first consideration should be to preserve that name, to keep it forever on the maps in the place where it belongs. It is a corruption, in some degree, but no more of a corruption than the present English forms of numberless aboriginal names which constitute the most beautiful and the most desirable part of our geographical nomenclature.

Alaska is a finer name for a State than Lincoln or Seward; for the same reasons that make Oregon a finer name even than Washington.

The Transformation of the Jews.

The discussion of the Jewish problem at the meeting of the Jewish Educational Alliance, in East Broadway, on Tuesday evening, brought out facts which are of an interest and importance extending far beyond that particular race.

In the district on the East Side of the town lying in the square mile of area to the south of Houston street and the east of the Bowery are congregated more than 300,000 Jews. It is the most densely populated region of New York, yet thither still tend the main part of the Jewish immigration now arriving at this port in great and unprecedented volume. These immigrants go there of necessity, for they are not merely strangers to this country, but to our speech also; and as one of the speakers at the Alliance meeting said, "they must go to their own," and it is in the East Side Ghetto that they find their own. There their Yiddish speech or their dialects of eastern Europe are understood and they can best be plotted in their course in this new Jerusalem.

What, then, shall be done to make room for the increasing multitude in that narrow and densely crowded region? Mr. CYRUS L. SUDZGERER could give no other answer than that "those of our people already there who can afford it should go to Harlem, The Bronx, and to Brooklyn, where there is room," and thus leave space for the accommodation of the incoming throng. But the same reasons, generally, which drive the Jewish immigrants to the East Side Ghetto influence Jews already there to remain in the district. They want to be in a Jewish community so large that it is dominant in the district where it is. Moreover, these Jews of later arrival are not in sympathy with the Jews of longer residence, those who fill the "Uptown Ghetto," as the new-comers call it derisively.

"Hated bred of their different birthplaces," as Mr. DAVID BLAUSTEIN, the superintendent of the Alliance, remarked, prevents homogeneity of the great mass of the immigrants of the race and the Jews of Portuguese, German, and English extraction, of which before our Jewish population consisted so largely. "This prejudice," explained Mr. BLAUSTEIN, "never finds full sway till they get to this country, because they never meet till they come here." Consequently, the Russian Jews, of whom the great mass in the Ghetto is made up, want to be by themselves, apart from the German Jews, for the two "hate each other."

The Jewish problem, however, is settling itself in a way far more effectual than any method that can be devised artificially by the Alliance or by the philanthropy of the prosperous part of the race situated outside of the Ghetto and removed from its prejudices and restrictions. That solution is being worked out by the rapid Americanization of the new-comers, for ultimately the thinning out of the Ghetto by the removal of Jews who have outgrown its limitations will come spontaneously. But it will be a result produced by causes whose operation is painful to the old and strict Jews of orthodox views and habits.

The same process of transformation which has gone on and is still going on among other races of immigrants will affect radically the Ghetto. As Mr. BLAUSTEIN said, "in six months the Jew in America undergoes more changes than he would have done in a century in the country from which he comes." This transformation is in his family life, more particularly, and it is of a kind which has brought grief to other races, but it is inevitable, and in its ultimate results will be desirable, so far as concerns the whole community, at least. To quote again from Mr. BLAUSTEIN, "the child goes to school and learns English; parent and child do not understand each other; there is no family council, no heart-to-heart talk." A gulf is established between the two, and naturally the child tends to further separation and the whole tone of

Jewish family life is changed. A new race comes up strange to the old in speech and in spirit. But, as we have said, the same transformation is going on in all races here. The child, learning to speak English, may be inclined to a feeling of superiority over a parent who is ignorant of it or can speak only broken English. Much heart-burning among foreigners has been caused accordingly; but regard for the welfare of children must intervene in parents the desire that their shall be this speedy and complete Americanization of their offspring. The first great necessity is to speak the language of the country in which the career of the speaker is to be made, and the difference in language will pass away when the first generation bred in this country grows up and has offspring of its own.

Nor is it desirable or even tolerable that there should be preserved in this country race distinctions emphasized by differences of speech. Whether Jews or people of any other race, public policy demands that everything should be done to make them all American citizens, with one national pride. It is unfortunate that foreign speech should be perpetuated by the publication of papers addressed to specific nationalities of alien tongues; but, happily, these papers find their patrons only or almost exclusively among the newly immigrants, for the children of these foreigners usually pay no heed to them, but read American papers only. Yiddish may be convenient jargon for the Jews coming here strangers to our language and our customs and the genius of our social and political institutions, but English is the speech which Jewish parents should be eager to have their children acquire. Of course, a transformation in the younger generation results, but in its own interest and the interests of America society the sooner and the more completely it is brought about the better.

Gen. Wood's Friend's Record in the Convict Camp.

A good word for Capt. EDGAR GERALD BELLAIR, from one who knows him well, reached us yesterday in a letter dated at Monticello, Florida, on April 20. The writer is, or was, the sole trustee of the convicts hired out by the State Penitentiary and employed in chain gangs to work the hard-rock phosphate mines at Ichetucknee in Columbia county.

The opinion which Mr. BAILEY formed of the convict CHERRITON, or SHERIDAN, or "SHERRY," as BELLAIR was known to his fellow prisoners, is manifest in what the contractor-boss of convict labor now writes us concerning him:

"I regret exceedingly to see BELLAIR hounded, simply because he was a convict. He held the full penalty for his offense in this State, and during the whole five years was directly under me. He was never punished but once, and, I believe, unjustly; he was accused by another convict of an attempt to escape."

"I met him in New York last September and recognized him on Broadway. He was very glad to see me, told me his experience, and made me a present. I certainly appreciated his showing gratitude, for I treated him kindly and requested the Governor to pardon him."

"He is a very bright man and sent me his book (about last December) 'As It Is in the Philippines.' He is held in high esteem by Gen. CHAFFIN, and was given a farewell dinner by the Army and Navy Club at Manila on July 2, 1902; also highly honored by Gen. Wood as a great friend of the army in Cuba, in a letter to the President."

"Now, I think he deserves well, and I believe you will defend him unless his attacks on Gen. BROOKS and Governor TAPPAN are unfounded. If they are, they are of course readily disproved."

"I feel kindly toward all ex-convicts and want to see them do well. Of course, they especially should not say anything unjust, and especially deserve censure if they do. Yours truly,"

"E. B. BAILEY."

We think nobody can read the above lines without a warm feeling for the excellent man who wrote them. Even in the necessarily harsh intercourse and amid the sympathy-killing surroundings of the convict camp Mr. BAILEY showed a fine mind and manner which have been misused by that accomplished swindler to enable him to continue under many names and in many parts of the globe his almost unparalleled criminal career. Mr. BAILEY befriended CHERRITON-BELLAIR and did what he could to ease his lot in the phosphate mines. He helped to get him pardoned after five years of the chain and ball. When Mr. BAILEY met and recognized BELLAIR last autumn in Broadway he was glad that his bright convict was doing so well in the world.

Of course, BELLAIR did not attempt uselessly to deny his identity with CHERRITON or "SHERRY." He met the convict contractor frankly, told him of his life since the days of his last imprisonment, of his social success in high army circles, of his travels, of his essay in authorship, of Gen. LEONARD WOOD's friendship for him, and of that officer's enthusiastic endorsement of him in a letter to President ROOSEVELT.

Mr. BAILEY was sincerely glad to hear all this. He was glad to get in December a copy of BELLAIR's book. And now, thinking of the ex-convict solely as a wrongdoer who had expelled a single offense by a long period of hard labor and good behavior in the phosphate mines, under his own personal observation, and who had since then lived in a manner to obtain the friendship and approval of a man like LEONARD WOOD, Mr. BAILEY utters a most creditable appeal against the harshness that would crush the beginnings of a respectable and perhaps useful new life.

Heaven forbid that any reclaimed unfortunate should be trampled back into the mire! Mr. BAILEY is right as far as his knowledge goes. What he does not know, or, at least, does not consider, is that BELLAIR is no single-offense offender, to be encouraged and helped back to the paths of rectitude, but a hardened, persistent, heartless deceiver and enemy of society, whose long series of criminal operations in new quarters and under new circumstances have proved him to be as irreclaimable as he is dangerous.

When Mr. BAILEY learns or remembers this he will take a slightly different view of the proper treatment of BELLAIR. When last heard from in Arizona that impudent swindler was not frankly admitting, as he did to Mr. BAILEY last September in Broadway, the identity of the convict-camp "SHERRY" with

Gen. WOOD's favorite and the defamer of Gov. TAPPAN. He was declaring with a show of indignation that he never was a convict in Florida, but was, on the contrary, a reputable British officer, a graduate of Cheltenham, a relative of Sir WILLIAM BELLAIR, and an entirely different person from the "CHAS. BELLAIR, alias ERNEST ALAINE CHERRITON, Forger and Swindler," of the police records in Mulberry street.

Very likely the kind-hearted Mr. BAILEY does not even know that the author of "As It Is in the Philippines" by his sentence at Tampa and his five years' imprisonment under the Florida laws, temporarily escaped prosecution for an entirely different crime, namely, a forgery committed in Jamaica on the Colonial Bank of Kingston, the penalty whereof still hangs over his head.

There is encouragement for honest society in but one aspect of the BELLAIR case. Gen. LEONARD WOOD and others will be glad to have one more illustration of the reassuring fact that the whole number of skillful and dangerous swindlers now operating in the civilized world is less than is commonly supposed. You hear, for instance, of the performances of an ERNEST BALANTINE in Toronto, an EDGAR BAILEY in Halifax, an ERNEST ALAINE CHERRITON in Chicago, an E. A. CAMERON in Jamaica, a CHARLES BALANTINE in New York, a "SHERIDAN" in Florida, an EDGAR GERALD BELLAIR in Santiago, Havana, Manila and Wickenburg; and you naturally conclude that all parts of the earth are thickly infested with that particular type of the suave and plausible rascal. But it is much like the stage army made apparently numerous by frequent entrances and exits of the same nimble individual. The world is seemingly full of swindlers of the BELLAIR stripe. The situation becomes simpler and less terrifying when investigation reduces a dozen or more of him to one polyonymous, ubiquitous scamp.

The Sympathetic Candidate.

The strikers who put a "boycott" recently upon the Union Pacific railway requested President ROOSEVELT to avoid that road in making his western progress. The dispatches say that the President replied that he regretted that he could not grant the request, for the reason that he had promised to appear and speak at various places on the line of the Union Pacific and was unwilling to disappoint the people who expected him.

It is this thoughtful, this quick concern for the feelings of the public, that has won for the President his high place in the affections of the American people. He would gladly accede to the request, but the innocent persons who would be hurt and disappointed if he failed to visit them must first be thought of. The Union Pacific boycotters fully appreciated it, and they admired the President's judicial-minded solicitude for the expectant communities of the Rocky Mountains. They knew that his heart was with themselves, that he regretted that he must forego the pleasure of sharing in and abetting their cause, but that his word was given elsewhere and he must be excused. Thus it is, by his thoughtful tact and universal consideration, that the President makes friends wherever he goes, and even when he fails to share the pastimes of the masses alienates no man's sympathy, but rather knits all the closer to him.

We do not wish to do any injustice to Mr. CLEVELAND, but we cannot help thinking how differently that tactless statesman would have behaved in the same circumstances, and how his fossilized adherence to the Constitution and his hide-bound deference to the intolerable restrictions of the laws of his country would have led him to act. It is doubtless true that under the same circumstances Mr. CLEVELAND would probably not have been requested to avoid a Union Pacific railway and to blot out from his itinerary. The men who institute boycotts and who undermine and destroy property that they cannot control understand their business. They are both shrewd and capable, and they know whom to address.

Mr. CLEVELAND, however, never would have expressed his regret that a prior engagement deprived him of the pleasure of participating in their boycott. He would have had no thought for their sensibilities, no disinterested sympathy with their laudable purpose. His head would have been full of obsolete ideas about the Bill of Rights, the inviolability of freedom of contract and the putative importance of the common law. So obsessed would he have been by these sentimental futilities that the invitation would have smacked to him of insult and he would have affected a rousing indignation.

It is this selfish and narrow adherence to superannuated ideals, this bigoted infatuation with the Constitution of his country and its laws, and this myopic failure to sympathize with the true feelings of the public, that make Mr. CLEVELAND the respectable impossibility that he is to-day. How absurd, how grotesque, in this era of new moral forces would be his pretensions to the Presidency; if he had any!

A Truly Heroic Veto.

Prior to the passage of the Ransperger bill, designed to concentrate under the Governor's hand the political power inherent in the function of purchasing the groceries and provisions of the State insane hospitals, THE SUN submitted substantially the subjoined explanations and arguments in condemnation of it:

"This bill provides for a radical departure from existing laws governing the institutions under the control of the Commission in Lunacy."

"It seeks, in the first place, to create two new and separate departments, with the additional expenses necessary for their maintenance, a proposal which does not seem to be warranted by the necessities of the service."

"The bill proposes to place under his [the Treasurer's] control all of the estimates of expenses and authorizes him to make drafts upon the Comptroller by quarterly estimates instead of by monthly estimates, as heretofore. This might possibly lead to large and unnecessary drafts upon the Comptroller. But a more serious feature of the bill is that which proposes to take away from the boards of directors the power to purchase supplies and lodge it in an official to be appointed by the commission."

"This would be conferring upon this department power not possessed by any other department of the State Government. The proposal is

the bill is a departure that might lead to abuse and scandal."

Consequently, our gratification must be confessed at finding this authoritative approval of our views in a message vetoing the measure aforesaid under the signature of Governor ODELL, for what we have just actually quoted is nothing less.

The Governor fails to enumerate certain other serious objections to this bill, or to indicate his resolve to reverse fully his centralizing policy on the State hospitals, in accordance with the logic of this veto; but of that veto we are none the less appreciative.

The Governor has done well and wisely. Though his act may impair the grocery trade somewhat, his rating in the political books of his fellow citizens must be raised immensely.

A New Problem.

The idea that in respect to sail area Shamrock III. was to be a reversion toward the moderation of earlier Cup yachts vanished with yesterday's despatches describing the new spars that will go upon her in the place of those disabled in her recent accident. The outlook now is that she will have about 16,000 square feet, or 1,500 more than Shamrock II., and approximately the same as Reliance.

After all, the difference between the two competing yachts will be found wholly in the water.

If the challenger beat Shamrock I. so handsily with her small rig on, what will she do in full dress?

Old drowsy Dublin is the scene of a delightful row over the Phoenix Park. The Board of Works, the local park board, holds that the grounds are not public property, but that they constitute a royal park, the property of King EDWARD, and consequently the Gaelic Athletic Association has no right to play football and other games there. But that the park is not public property is vigorously denied by many authorities, and laughed at by some. The matter was brought before a Police Magistrate the other day, and here is the way our friend, the Dublin *Freeman*, begins to comment upon the affair:

"By a striking coincidence the chief witness for the prosecution in the case of the Board of Works vs. the Gaelic Athletic Association was named WOODWARD, and the Police Magistrate's decision in favor of the board was delivered on All Souls' Day."

So, on the evidence of a WOODWARD, the All Fools' Day decision bars the "Nine Acres" from the Athletic Association and reserves them for polo players only. Now the "Nine Acres," it should be remembered, form the historic park of the Phoenix Park, renowned for deadly duels, mass meetings and thundering reproductions of the battle of Waterloo, in which the British troops, "all alone by themselves," and regularly once a year, used to knock Napoleon's army into smithereens.

However, the Magistrate's decision does not finally settle the case. In Dublin there are taller courts than the Magistrate's, and into one of them the case of the King vs. the Town, or polo vs. football, will doubtless be taken and solemnly argued, galloped and kicked to a finish.

A copy of the *Belfast Evening Telegraph* acquaints us with the confident expectation in Ireland that an American team is to appear at the Bally rifle tournament this year, and with the hope that the team will stop and shoot at the meetings of the Irish Rifle Association at Dublin and the Ulster Rifle Association at Belfast. The Ulster association holds the Haskell Cup, which it won at Sea Girt in 1901. Some trouble and expense have already been incurred for the purpose of entertaining the expected visitors. The sociabilities contemplated will, of course, be pleasing, but what we want is the Palma Trophy. Seven thousand eight hundred dollars are still needed to send the team after it.

Panic has seized Texas. The coming of a permanent observation station to the equator, under Prof. KIDDER, to determine precisely the spot where the 100th meridian crosses the 36th parallel of north latitude, is viewed as the beginning of a serious Republican campaign to pare down Texas. The spot sought, says the *Gastonian Daily News*, is "the northeast corner of the Pan Handle." Where the 103rd meridian crosses the 36th parallel, the northeast corner is "theoretically" the northeast corner of the Pan Handle. Before this threatened invasion of the Federal throne, old Judge CLARK gloomily recounts how, with every movement to determine our boundary Texas has come out a loser.

If Texas gets into another boundary controversy, it will likely end up by the Federal Government driving the Pan Handle down until it will hardly make a respectable shooting. A Washington rumor has settled in Texas to the effect that 100 square miles of Texas territory rightfully "belong to Oklahoma and New Mexico."

We confess we don't understand these wails lest Texas be distributed a bit. In the eyes of her Goddess of Anti-trustism, the year is the time for the most serious attack on the Union, and should be abolished. What right has Texas to monopolize more than 170,000,000 of United States acres?

There must be homes for consumptives somewhere in the State of New York, and, if necessary, without the consent of County Supervisors and Town Boards. We suppose there will have to be more than one home for consumptives are many, and many of them in this or that portion of the State cannot well travel to a central home, if the Goodell bill becomes a law it will have to be changed.

The reconstructed office of the Mayor's Manual proposes to require licenses from the city dealers in "second-hand books." There are a few dealers in second-hand books in New York, elderly men, old fashioned in garb and ways, but profoundly interested in their vocation. On this disappearing trade, no longer profitable through the marvellous cheapening of the cost of books, it is proposed to lay the heavy hand of the law, and that, under the pretext of reforming officials, these book dealers should be made subject to the liabilities of a bond and, perhaps, later on, each wear a badge and uniform.

It is explained in justification of the project of these licenses that criminals sell books to such dealers; but the present law on the subject of the sale of stolen property does not seem to be a new piece of legislation for its violation is provided for by the imposition of a license and the exercise of a paternal supervisory power of government control would prevent future infractions of the law does not appear.

We Wait to Hear From the Memorists.

To the Editor of THE SUN.—Can you give me the names of the prominent American humorists of to-day, and their addresses? H. H. PAMBAIC, April 22.

Exactly.

Mrs. Wiggins—How marvellous! So she's a woman who writes and has a name! I'll be glad to see her. Wiggins—Yes. She wanted to see you and she all her money.

WOMAN SPIES IN EUROPE.

They're Among the Best Agents of the Secret Service.

From the Chicago Tribune.

Woman's wit and love of intrigue find a fertile field in the secret service branches of many European governments. If the heads of these departments in England and Continental governments would talk—which they will not—they would bear testimony to the fact that women make excellent spies. Ministers and government officials of Europe understand that there are no more valuable agents in the secret service employment than the women who are engaged in their work, and the number of such women of social importance many of them, is said to be surprising.

In Europe the secret service is more concerned with other countries' secrets and more wrapped in mystery than the United States service. For that reason none knows the composition of the service in its entirety, and no wise person seeks to know.

One woman who enters this work is of all classes, and in many instances they work more effectively than the men. They succeed in many cases where a man could not. When they work against a man they are secret by their power lies in the fact that men are seldom adroit in their movements when subjected to constant surveillance by playing on the emotions of the wife of the man possessing the secret he desired to learn.

Certain Ambassadors accredited to England were married to a woman of their own nationality, and he never concerned himself, and he never made her his confidante. A female friend of the ambassador's, who was a woman of normal size, his grandfathers were large, but in no sense a giant. It is said, however, that in their girlhood they were very tall, and that the theory of the theory that mental and physical traits are inherited from the grandparents is not without foundation.

The wife of the ambassador was a woman of normal size, but in no sense a giant. It is said, however, that in their girlhood they were very tall, and that the theory of the theory that mental and physical traits are inherited from the grandparents is not without foundation.

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Biggest Man in the World.

Feodor Machow, the Russian Giant, Is Seven Feet Nine.

From the Chicago Tribune.

Of all the giants that have appeared before the public within the last thirty or forty years none can be compared with the imposing Russian who has recently been on exhibition in Berlin, Germany. This giant, whose name is Feodor Machow, has been exhibited by the Anthropological Society of Berlin, where he has undergone a rigid examination and careful measurements, which have resulted in establishing the truth of his claim of being the largest human being on the face of the globe.

Prof. Felix von Luschka, the famous ethnographical student, who conducted the examination, submitted the following written statement to the head of the institution:

"I have conducted an examination and measured from an anthropological standpoint Feodor Machow of Kustajky, Russia, who is now about 22 years of age. He is 7 feet 9 inches tall, and his weight is 350 pounds. He is the largest giant that has ever lived. He exceeds in height all the known living giants by at least a head, and is in many respects of great scientific interest."

The father of the giant, who has been exhibited in Europe up to the present time, was 6 feet 10 inches shorter than Machow. Their weight was between 250 and 300 pounds. Machow's height was measured by the late Prof. Virchow. The student, however, always exaggerated the height of the giant.

Feodor Machow comes from an old Russian family, whose ancestors are said to have emigrated to Russia from the south, probably from Syria. His parents, as well as his two brothers, were giants, and all of normal size. His grandfather was large, but in no sense a giant. It is said, however, that in their girlhood they were very tall, and that the theory of the theory that mental and physical traits are inherited from the grandparents is not without foundation.

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